

Issue NE-CW1804, released May 3, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 2, 2004, corn planting made excellent progress and is well ahead of last year and average, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Other producer activities included livestock care, soybean and sorghum planting, and monitoring grasshopper populations.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from 2 to 5 degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation ranged from traces to 0.30 inch and was mostly limited to the Panhandle and the southern third of the state.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending May 2, 2004				
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	9	9	1	9
Short	34	29	10	17
Adequate	57	61	82	67
Surplus	0	1	7	7
Subsoil				
Very Short	34	28	20	17
Short	41	42	43	31
Adequate	27	29	36	51
Surplus	0	1	1	1
Days Suitable	5.6	4.5	2.6	3.7

Field Crops Report: Corn planting jumped to 52 percent complete, about 10 days ahead of last year at 28 and a week ahead of average at 34. Seven percent of the crop was emerged, ahead of last year at 4 and average at 5.

Wheat condition rated 8 percent very poor, 13 poor, 41 fair, 34 good, and 4 excellent, below last year and average. Fields were 54 percent jointed, the same as last year but ahead of average at 42.

Soybean planting progressed to 5 percent complete, ahead of last year at 2 and the same as average.

Sorghum planting had begun in the eastern districts.

Oat planting progressed to 96 percent seeded to date, ahead of last year and average at 92. Sixty-seven percent was emerged, behind 70 percent last year and 72 average.

Sugar beet planting progressed to 83 percent complete by week's end. A year ago 76 percent had been planted.

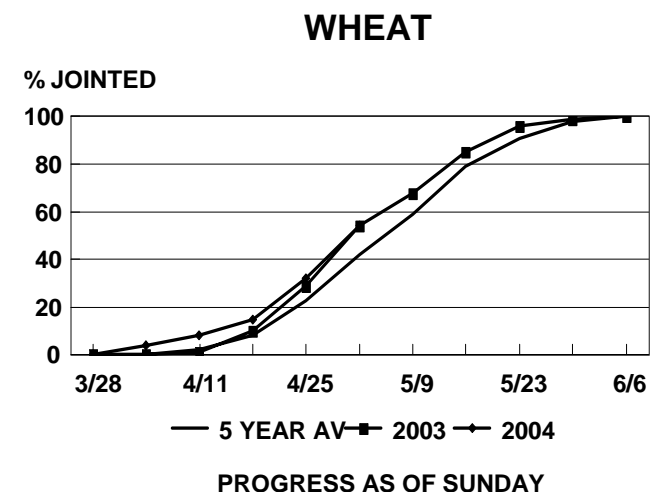
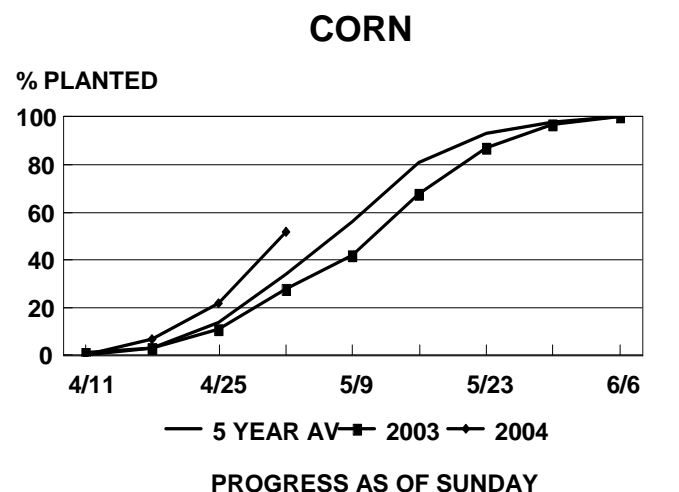
Alfalfa conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 9 poor, 39 fair, 40 good, and 9 excellent. Army worms and weevils were being sprayed in some areas.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending May 2, 2004				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	52	22	28	34
Corn Emerged	7	1	4	5
Oats Planted	96	88	92	92
Oats Emerged	67	48	70	72
Soybeans Planted	5	1	2	5
Sorghum Planted	2	0	1	1
Wheat Jointed	54	32	54	42

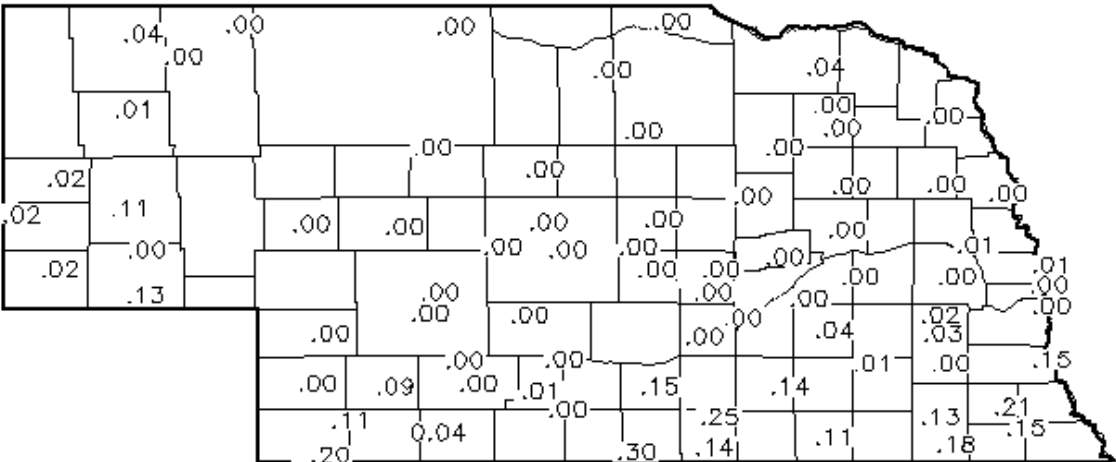
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 2, 2004					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	3	9	39	40	9
Wheat	8	13	41	34	4

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 9 percent very poor, 23 poor, 38 fair, 28 good and 2 excellent. This condition was better than a year ago but below average. Producers were beginning to pasture cattle.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 2, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 2, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.01	.01	.00	.00	.02	.08	.16	.15
Total since April 1	1.44	1.49	2.35	1.95	1.33	2.12	1.85	1.46
Normal since April 1	1.94	2.30	2.74	2.62	2.93	2.07	2.28	3.00
Total as % of normal	74%	63%	86%	75%	45%	103%	83%	48%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday May 2, 2004

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	80	23	47	-4
	Scottsbluff	81	26	49	-2
	Sidney	81	26	47	-5
NC	Ainsworth	86	29	50	-4
	Arthur	84	27	48	-5
	O'Neill	89	31	51	-4
NE	Concord	86	31	51	-4
	Elgin	90	31	52	-3
	West Point	85	31	52	-5
C	Grand Island	88	33	53	-3
	Lexington	89	34	53	-2
	Ord	89	32	52	-4
EC	Lincoln	86	33	55	-4
	Central City	88	34	53	-3
	Mead	86	30	53	-5
SW	Champion	85	30	50	-4
	North Platte	86	29	51	-3
	Curtis	88	29	53	-2
SC	Arapahoe	85	29	48	-5
	Minden	88	35	53	-3
	Red Cloud	87	34	53	-3
SE	Beatrice	85	35	54	-4
	Clay Center	86	31	52	-4
	Nemaha	86	39	57	-2

Source: High Plains Climate Center.